

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

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### General Summary of News.

#### EUROPE.

An Extra Report of yesterday announced the arrival in the river of the Honorable Company's Chartered Ship, Kingston, Captain Bowen, from England, the 16th of July, and we understand that she brings Packets for this place. We were not enabled to obtain any information of importance from this source, before our Paper went to press, last evening; but we shall not be wanting in our endeavours to collect the leading intelligence brought by her, in the course of the day, and prepare a Summary of it for to-morrow.

The Editor of the India Gazette has been more fortunate in obtaining Papers to the 4th of July by this occasion; and having issued in an Extra, such heads of intelligence as were of the greatest interest, we transcribe them for more general circulation, and for the information of those to whom they might not otherwise reach.

We have the pleasure to announce the arrival of the Kingston, from Gravesend the 13th of July. Some of the Passengers have reached town, having left the ship on Sunday last below Saugor.

We have not yet been able to ascertain any news, worthy of particular notice; but we have received London Papers to the 4th of July, from which we shall, in the course of the day, publish extracts. In the interim we submit a few heads:

The Funds on the 3d of July stood thus—Consols left off at 69½ for the account—Omnium 1½ discount.

Five Thousand Pounds have been collected this year, at the door of the Royal Academy.

Mr. Methuen, has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and Major Astley is a candidate for Wiltshire.

The Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Foreign Enlistment Bill.

An act to allow the exportation of goods from Glasgow to the East Indies, has passed.

An important Treaty has been concluded between Great Britain and the Porte.

In consequence of the rises in foreign exchanges, a mercantile house in London received a remittance in Guineas. Gold has fallen in price, the sale is dull, and the price is very little greater than the standard value.

It was expected that Parliament would be prorogued about the 20th of July, but much business remained to be disposed of.

A Bill has been introduced for the alteration of Hilary and Easter Terms—and for expediting the Trials of issues at *Nisi Prius*, in Middlesex and London.

The first Stone of St. Pancras Church, was laid by the Duke of York.

A Bill has been introduced under the sanction of the Prince Regent, for reversing the attainder of Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 28th of June, obtained two grants, one for 16 millions in Exchequer Bills, and the other for two and half millions in Irish Treasury Bills, to cover the unfunded debt.

Sir Francis Burdett on the 1st of July moved in the House of Commons "that early in the next Session this House will take into its most serious consideration, the state of the representation of the people." The motion was seconded by the other member for Westminster, but negatived by a large majority.

A Bill has been introduced to enable the Duke of Kent to dispose off certain parts of his property by way of lottery—no provision having been made by Parliament for His Royal Highness.

The papers by this arrival contain the particulars of McGregor's defeat.

Lord Cochrane's defeat, or rather repulse at Lima, appears to have been less disastrous than has been represented.—The last reports left His Lordship blockading Callao, with seven Vessels, bearing the Chilean Flag.

Accounts from Madrid, dated the 14th of June, announce another change in the Spanish Ministry. It is expected that M. Onis, late Envoy to the United States, will be Prime Minister.—This is the 26th change in Spanish Ministers within the last five years!

The third series of "Tales of my Landlord," have been published.

The latest accounts received in England from America, disclose a gloomy picture of commercial embarrassments. [Ind. Gaz.

The French Papers of July, which were brought by the Nancy, still continue to be the latest European Journals in the settlement, and tho' they have already passed through two hands, there yet remains several interesting articles unpublished. The Editor of the Times has given several detached portions of their contents in his Paper of yesterday, and we have repeated them in another place, after devoting a column to a subject of constant interest, and paramount importance, to all who feel an unabated interest in the welfare of their beloved country—England.

The State of the Nation, was upon the whole, probably, one of the most important and interesting questions that has been brought before the New Parliament of England during its first Session, and from every thing that can be learnt through the medium of the Provincial Journals of the country, which are necessarily impartial, as to the facts they report regarding their respective districts, it is clear that the distress of the great body of the population is quite equal to the picture given of it by Mr. Tierney, and the other Speakers in the House of Commons, who supported his motion for an enquiry into it.

In our Parliamentary Reports, we have given the Debates on this question at length, and in our latest English Papers, of June, we find abundant confirmation of the necessity that existed for such an enquiry. One of these more particularly is so full and so unanswerable on the subject, that we have been induced to transcribe it at length:—

The Papers in the manufacturing districts have lately contained most distressing accounts of the number of unemployed workmen, and the consequent wretchedness and increase of pauperism, which give the lie direct to all the ministerial assertions of the prosperity of the country. At Leeds a short time back, the journeymen manufacturers out of employ paraded the streets in a body, and violence was apprehended. From the Petitions to Parliament, it appears, that some classes of manufacturers can only earn 5s. a week, through full employ, and working *sixteen hours out of the twenty-four*. The parish rates are almost every where enormously high, and the degrading pauper system is taking its full swing. An instance, and we believe it is not a solitary one, of the condition of the parishes in the country, is afforded by a statement respecting the parish of Wigton Magna, in Leicestershire, from which it appears, that the poor rates have more than doubled since 1814; that the number of inhabitants is 2,100, and the number of pauper families receiving relief, 248; which, computing five individuals in each family, will leave 1,240 persons to be wholly or partly supported by 860.—The agriculturists are not much better off, as the low rate of wages proves; and trade, notwithstanding the late appearance occasioned by excessive speculation, is certainly much depressed. The state of the funds may be cited as a proof of this: for even at this time, when there is no war excitement, when the finances are embarrassed and there is no prospect of their getting better, and when there is considerable alarm respecting the course that Parliament will adopt towards the Bank; even now we say, they keep up at a price which affords purchasers but a very small interest for their money; and it follows, that if they could invest it elsewhere, with more profit and tolerable security, it would not remain where it is; it is in fact a last resource for capitalists, who prefer that to keeping it idle.

The comparative excess of the value of exports over that of imports is the constant theme of the Treasury Journals, whereby they (pretend to) prove the "flourishing state of commerce;" but, unluckily for their arguments, this circumstance at once proves directly the reverse. The Statesman, a paper very clever in these matters, has put this question in a clear light: we shall therefore quote a passage:—"It will not be disputed, that the proper business of the merchant consists in carrying the various products of the different countries of the world from those places where their exchangeable value is least, to those where it is greatest. It is obvious, however, that there could be no motive to export any commodity unless the commodity which it was designed to import in its stead was of greater value. When an English merchant imports 100,000 quarters of Polish wheat, he calculates on its selling for so much more than its price in Poland, as will be sufficient to pay the expense of freight, insurance, &c.; and to yield, besides, the common and ordinary rate of profit on the capital employed in the transfer. If the wheat did not sell for this sum, its importation would obviously occasion a loss to the importer. No merchant ever did or ever will export but with the view of importing a greater value in return."

A much better criterion of the state of a country is the disposition of people with regard to emigration. Considering all the obstacles to leaving one's country.—the attachments that must be broken, the friends that must be abandoned, the old habits that must be given up, and the new ones that must be adopted, as well as the natural unwillingness to embark in a new course

of life, and to run the risk of encountering "ills we know not of;" considering also in how many cases individuals and families are prevented from moving, by a sheer want of pecuniary means, we may fairly conclude, that the distress and misgovernment in a country must be great, when hundreds and thousands are leaving it for a distant place of refuge, the mere voyage to which is perilous and painful.

These things might be borne with patience, if there was a prospect of speedy or gradual relief. But the only relief that can be anticipated must come through the medium of a very disagreeable, perhaps a violent, catastrophe. Even now, we scarcely breathe after the exertions during the war. The taxation continues at a great height, and yet barely covers the reduced expenditure. The greater part of the revenue, too, raised with difficulty from the suffering community, is consumed—not in defraying the necessary wants of the state—but in paying the mere interest of the debt—a debt incurred chiefly during a war, which was begun from fear of and hatred to the popular ascendancy in France, and carried on, in resistance to the hostile spirit excited by our impolitic interference in the concerns of our neighbours. This debt is in effect like an immense pauper system: a large body of unproductive labourers are supported by the rest of the community, and hang like a dead weight on their shoulders. The following account of one result of the folly and obstinacy of our rulers is taken from official papers:—

Unredeemed funded debt, 5th January, 1819	£791,867,312	18	81
Ditto unfunded, in Exchequer Bills, outstanding	43,655,400	0	0
Total	£835,522,713	18	81

We are now redeeming annually not quite 2,000,000l. : this, which is the only real Sinking Fund, is all we have to apply to the reduction of the above alarming total. What is then our prospect? The best thing we can hope for, is the continuance of peace for several years,—suppose it even to last for as long a period as the war did, which Lord Castlereagh's settlement of Europe does not render very likely,—and then we shall have lessened our load in a small, comparatively a very small, degree. The most sanguine cannot hope for more than this; but what is there on the other side? We fear a rupture in the North we fear a war with America; we fear another change in France, in which our Ministers would be implicated by their pledges to support legitimacy, or any convulsions in Germany, with which our Hanoverian dominions connect us; we dread any improvements of machinery on the Continent, which would injure our manufactures: at home we are alarmed lest the monied men should be panic-struck by the state of the finances; we tremble at the idea of the effect of the resumption of cash-payments and the consequent limitation of the issues of Bank-notes, on the commercial body; we dread lest the distress in some parts of the country should drive the people into violence; and in short we are as sensitive as the Bull and Bear of 'Change, Alley to every breath of wind, because we know on what a slight foundation our present calm is built:—

The following are the articles of general intelligence, furnished by the French Papers before alluded to, arranged under their respective dates.

*London, June 23.*—They write from Liverpool, under date of the 21st, that at about half past seven of the preceding evening, a steam vessel, 300 tons burthen, had entered that port. This ship, called the *Savannah*, and commanded by Captain Rogers, had left Savannah on the 26th May, and entered the Channel on the 16th June. The steam engine had been resorted to during eighteen days of her passage. This is the first vessel of this description that has ventured to cross the wide ocean.

*June 24.*—On Monday last, a large stone came off from the vault of Westminster Palace, and fell with a frightful noise in the midst of the large porch. We do not hear of any injury having occurred to any person, although many were then present.

*June 25.*—In the sitting of the House of Commons yesterday, Sir F. Burdett, announced, that he would make a motion on Thursday next for a Reform in Parliament.

*June 26.*—A rumour prevailed yesterday, that some serious disturbances had occurred at Liverpool. The following are the true particulars of that event. Some persons had been arrested on Wednesday last, and carried to the House of Correction; a considerable number of people assembled to deliver them. The gates and doors of the house were broken open, and several of the Constables sorely wounded. Seventeen of the most turbulent, having been immediately seized, were examined and committed by the Mayor.

*London, July 6.*—On the 15th of February, Lord Cochrane's squadron was perceived by the frigate *Andromache*, at a little distance from Callao. It is probable, that the Chilean Admiral was going in search of the Spanish Frigates, *Vengeance* and *Esmeralda*, and wished to give alarm to the whole coast, in order to facilitate the attack of General St. Martin upon Lima.

Subsequent news state, that Lord Cochrane has met with the two Spanish Frigates in the port of Arice, and has taken one of these and blown up the other.

*July 8.*—It appears, from the American papers, that Commodore Perry was on the point of sailing on the American Frigate *John Adams*, and was entrusted with a secret mission, to which the Journals attach a great importance. One of them, the *American*, of the 7th June, in advertizing to the departure of the Commodore, says: "We have it from an unquestionable authority, that this mission is neither connected with the cession of Cuba to Great Britain, nor with the commercial transactions of the United States.

The Meeting held at Blackburn on the 5th July, for a Parliamentary Reform, took place most peacefully and without any kind of accident.

*St. Peterburgh, June 4.*—The Court Counsellor, Hammel, during his stay in England, has sent, to H. E. the Minister of the Interior, a sabre made with iron extracted from aerolites, and manufactured at Mr. Sourby's as an offering to His Majesty the Emperor. This sabre is the first that has been wrought out of such extraordinary materials. Mr. Sourby thought that an arm made up with a substance sent as it were from heaven could not be offered to a more appropriate personage than him who had delivered Europe. The Minister of the Interior has had the honor to present it with a letter from Mr. Sourby to H. M. the Emperor, who has deigned to accept it, and has sent a diamond ring to the latter.

*Rostock, June 10.*—Blucher square is almost finished. It is supposed, that the inauguration of the statue of the Field Marshal will take place on the 26th of August, the anniversary of the battle of Katzbach; in the first place, because what remains of the work yet to be done, cannot be ready for the 18th of June; and then because the Prince is entitled but to half of the laurels of Waterloo, the other half of which belong to the Duke of Wellington, while the Prince has alone the glory of the triumph won at Katzbach.

*Vienna, June 15.*—Letters of the 4th from Naples, state, that news had been received there, through the Telegraph, of a dreadful eruption of Etna. The town of Catania, which is built at the foot of that volcano, was threatened with the greatest danger.

Vesuvius has also undergone a violent eruption; the course of the lava was towards Pompeia. Severe shocks of earthquake have been felt in the neighbourhood of Viterbo.

*Madrid, June 16.*—The revolution which had long threatened the Ministry has at last burst out; the Marquis Caza-Irujo is no more Minister Secretary of State.

The chief of division of the Ministry, Mr. Manuel Gonsalvez Salmon, is provisionally entrusted with the affairs of this Department.

The Marquis Caza-Irujo has been sent as an exile to Avila. It is supposed, that his post is destined to Mr. Onis, who has returned from the United States.

Mr. Eguia, Minister at War, has resigned.

Since the return of Ferdinand to Spain, five years ago, the five departments of the Ministry have undergone twenty-five changes.

*Madrid, June 29.*—The Insurgent Privateers continue to show themselves before Andalusia, and to trouble even our coasting trade.

Marquis de Casa Irujo is no more remembered. Mr. Onis is anxiously waited for. His mode of reception here will probably throw some light upon the mysterious cessation of the Floridas.

General Morillo is not so much as talked of in letters from Angustura, dated the 6th of May.

*Frankfort, June 25.*—It is confidently stated, that the Ambassador of the Germanic Diet has demanded that Dr. Borne, the Editor of the *Gazette de la Ville libre de Frankfort*, should cease to conduct that Paper. The proprietor has been ordered to chuse another Editor, or stop the publication of his Gazette.

*Paris June 20.*—The number of suicides during January, February, March and April last, has been 124, among whom are 33 females. There were 64 unmarried, and 60 married persons of either sex; most of them deprived themselves of life by means of fire arms, or of the vapour of coal; 46 drowned themselves.

It has also been ascertained, that fifty of these persons courted death from being out of conceit with life, in consequence of domestic afflictions, critical predicament, or deceived affections; the rest from deranged affairs, misconduct, gaming and debauch. This period of the four first months of the year, compared with the analogous period of last year, offers a difference of 41 suicides more; there is about the same increasing proportion in the motives and causes which occasioned the act.

*Paris, June 26.*—The Court of Assizes, declares Lenormand, Soffiet, Carrette, Rosa Marsen, and Laurence Laurent, not guilty, and orders that they shall be immediately set at liberty, provided none of them be detained for some other cause.

Applying to Pierre Coignard, to Alexandre Coignard, and to L'Excellent in as far as concerns every one separately, the articles 147, 148, 163, 164, 165, 56, 20, 22 and 382, of the Code Penal;

Condemns L'Excellent to five years imprisonment, places under (surveillance) the special inspection of the Police for five years more, excludes him during that time from the enjoyment of his civil rights, orders that he shall give bail for a hundred francs and fines him sixteen.

Condemns Pierre Coignard to forced labor during life, and to be marked with the letters T. P. Decrees the same punishment to Alexandre Coignard.

*Paris, July 4.*—The taxes have been reduced to 20,000,000 francs less than last year.

*Red Snow.*—The discovery of red snow, though extremely curious, is not altogether new, as will be perceived from the following passage, which is extracted, literally, from the 1st vol. of *Les Merveilles et Beautés de la Nature en France*, by M. Duppig. The only difference which appears to exist between the snow discovered by Captain Ross, in the Arctic Regions, and the snow found in Europe, alluded to in the following extract, is, that the snow of the frozen regions is of a very deep colour, at least we may rely on the statements of the public papers, whilst the other is only slightly tinged

with light red. It is of little consequence whether this difference arises from the colouring matter being more abundant in the former than in the latter, or whether the two colours are produced by different substances. If the snow brought by Captain Ross derives its hue, as is supposed, from the excrement of myriads of birds, all doubt is removed; but there is every reason to believe, that, on the mountains of Europe, the red colour of the snow proceeds from another cause. The extract from M. Depping's work is as follows.—

"Red Snow is sometimes found on very high mountains during great thaws. Saussure has observed it on the Alps, and M. Raymond on the Pyrenees, at the height of from 2,000 to 2,500 yards. It is only during the spring season, that the furrows traced by the melted ice on the snow are tinged with a light shade of pink. This shade becomes darker in parts where there is a junction of several furrows, and it even deepens to the tone of carmine, where numerous springs had dislodged the powder by which the colour is produced. Saussure was at a loss how to account for this phenomenon; he however, supposed it to proceed from the seminal powder of certain plants peculiar to high mountains; but M. Raymond attributes it with more probability *mica*, which abounds among the Alps and Pyrenees, and which, being probably reduced to powder during the melting of the snow and ice, colours the water by which it is washed away."

*Tar Lamp.*—The American papers describe a lamp in which tar is burnt instead of oil. It consists of a fountain reservoir to supply and preserve a constant level, and a lamp which receives the fountain-pipe at one end, and at the other a burner for the tar: this is merely a small cup placed on the axis of the lamp, and supplied with tar from the fountain. A draught tube is fixed in the lanthorn, or external part of the lamp, and air is admitted by a hole at the bottom. The current of air, in passing through the lamp, envelopes the burner, and urges the flame, and the draught tube conveys off the smoke.

*Clandestine Marriage.*—The result of the following Trial at the Consistory Court of Doctor's Commons, in April last, regarding the clandestine marriage of Lord and Lady Herbert, has been already made known by us in a former Number of our Journal, but we have thought the details might interest many, and have accordingly published them here:

SIR WILLIAM SCOTT, after hearing Counsel for both parties, gave judgement this-day (Friday, April 30,) on the above extraordinary case of clandestine marriage.

This was a suit for restitution of conjugal rights, brought by the Dowager Princess, Donna Octavo Espinella de Butera (daughter of the Duke and Duchess de Lorine), in consequence of a marriage solemnized between her and Lord Herbert (son of the Earl of Pembroke), at Palermo, on the 17th of August, 1814, Lord Herbert being then of the age of 22, and she being 32 years.

The Learned Judge observed, there was no great incongruity either between the age or the condition of the parties. Both appeared personally to the suit, without being minors, represented by their guardians.

It appeared, that in 1814, Lord Herbert went to the island of Sicily, and was introduced there by Lady William Bentinck, to the family of the Prince de Butera, then living, whose widow this lady afterwards was, when his Lordship married her, after an ardent courtship, as appeared by the correspondence; among which was first a solemn promise of marriage, and next a letter after marriage in the following strain:—

"My Angel! My Angelic Wife!—When I cease to think of you with love and affection, I hope the Almighty will that moment strike me dead! My dear Angel! I am here imprisoned for our marriage; and in a few days I find you will have to go to a Convent, and likewise be imprisoned there for five years; but I hope all will be right when the matter is brought to a conclusion. Cheer up, my angelic Octavo! I have had an interview with an English Gentleman, who tells me (though this is the law of Sicily), we shall soon be released. Be of good heart, my angelic Wife! My love and affection will never forsake you as such; while I have being, I will be your dear husband; for so you may look upon me; and with as much certainty as that I am now writing to you. Farewell, my dear Angel! Your adorable picture is suspended at the head of my bed." &c.

It appeared, that the house of this Lady was the principal resort of hospitality at Palermo, and as such frequented by the English Nobility, and that Lord Herbert had been there entertained with great kindness and hospitality, at both their town and country house. Lord Herbert during the lifetime of the husband, having shewn great attentions to the Lady, and which he continued by way of courtship after she became a widow. On her telling Mr. Mather (a friend of Lord Herbert's) that she was going to contract a second marriage, that gentleman expressed doubts to her of the propriety of her marriage with Lord Herbert; but this was not sufficient to break off the engagement. Lord H. continued to communicate with her and her friends upon the subject, when at length the marriage took place in presence of the parish priest and two other witnesses, but which was not solemnized according to the regular Church forms required by the law of that country, so as to impress it with due sanctity. The Learned Judge, however, was of opinion, it was solemn in every respect, as a ceremony of marriage; but the question was, as to the validity of such marriage according to the existing law of that country, which was to have effect in this? I was considered a valid marriage by the law of that country, however irregularly solemnized, it must upon the same principle be recognized as a valid marriage by the law of this country.

The law of Sicily was to be collected from the authority of the most eminent professional men of that country, which opinions had been produced. And it was expressly declared by a decree of the Council of Trent, which formed the Canon Law of Sicily, that this was a complete valid marriage, though the parish clergyman did not perform the ceremony, but attended merely as a witness. The Counsel for Lord Herbert had admitted, that the validity of the marriage was too strong to be resisted. The affectionate correspondence between them in the character of man and wife, and mutual cohabitation was proved by the servants for several days, until a separation took place by the criminal law of the country interposing, by which, at the instance of the Earl of Pembroke, the husband, his son, was put in imprisonment in the *Castel del Marie*, and the wife in like manner imprisoned in a convent adjoining, where each were liable to five years separate confinement, for having thus solemnized a clandestine marriage. From this confinement Lord Herbert had contrived to escape, and the Lady, on account of her health suffering, was permitted, some time after, to go at large upon a security, by bond, that she should return to confinement when called upon. Lord H. having come over to this country, was followed by her in 1817; and he having abandoned his wife, by leaving the kingdom, she brought the present suit, praying the Court that she might be restored to conjugal rights.

An objection was taken by Drs. Arnold and Swabey, for Lord Herbert, to this Court pronouncing for restitution according to the law of Sicily, whereby it appears, that the parties for the very act of solemnizing this clandestine marriage, were under sentence of separation, and of separate imprisonment for five years, by the criminal law of that country, and which law they had not yet finally undergone, but were still subject to. The Learned Judge was of opinion, this being a mere municipal law, by way of punishment in that country, where an irregular, though legal marriage had taken place (at the instance of parental authority) could not be applicable to the case of one of the parties to the marriage himself being of full age setting up such a plea, in bar of conjugal rights, claimed by the wife, and especially as forming no part of the civil or ecclesiastical law, with reference to which, the question was alone determinable. Upon the whole of the evidence and objection taken, the Court felt bound to decree, that this lady is the lawful wife of Lord Herbert; that he is bound to receive her in that character, to treat her with all conjugal affection, and to say by the 1st day of Michaelmas Term next, that he has complied with this injunction.

Decree in favour of Lady Herbert, with costs of suit.

Lord Herbert is at present abroad, not having visited England since the year 1814. The suit was commenced in 1815.

*Commemoration of Burns.*—On Saturday the 5th of June, a meeting of the friends and admirers of Burns, the Scottish poet, took place, to dine at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, for the purpose of celebrating his memory and promoting a subscription to erect a monument to his fame in the capital of his native land. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex took the chair, though evidently labouring under indisposition. He was supported by Sir James Mackintosh, Sir Francis Burdett, Mr. Crabbe, the father of English living poets, Mr. Thomas Moore, the poet of Ireland, and several other persons of distinction for rank, or wealth, or eminence in the Arts.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drank, Sir J. Mackintosh rose to propose a toast, which he said he was sure would be received with enthusiasm by all present but one, he meant the health of his Royal Highness, their Chairman.

The hon. gentleman then pronounced an encomium on his Royal Highness, who had never, he said, forgotten, that his ancestors were placed on the throne of this realm to protect public liberty, without which no encouragement could be given to genius, and no intellectual eminence acquired or maintained. It had been his pleasure, and his honour, often to meet his Royal Highness at assemblies for promoting education and diffusing knowledge; and the advantages of the diffusion of knowledge by opening more extensive springs to genius, and letting loose the energies of minds which would otherwise have remained spell-bound in ignorance, were never better exemplified, than in the history of the distinguished poet whose memory they were this day celebrating. The extension of education to the lowest classes of the community in Scotland enabled Burns to start in life, and to commence his poetical career with much knowledge of the literature of his country.

On the health of Robert Burns, the poet's son, being drank in a subsequent part of the evening, he confirmed the remark of Sir J. Mackintosh regarding the requirements of his father, stating some of the French and English books which composed his library, and mentioned a circumstance with which we were before unacquainted, that the Poet had even studied the first six books of Euclid, and was a skilful land surveyor. His Royal Highness having left the chair before 9 o'clock, on account of his indisposition, was succeeded by Sir J. Mackintosh, who introduced the toasts, of the health of Walter Scott, of Mr. Campbell, of Mr. T. Moore, with characteristic eulogies on their poetry and character, and was answered by the two latter with appropriate speeches.

Before the meeting dispersed, the amount of subscriptions already collected was stated to be—at Bombay, 300l.; in England, before Saturday, 527l.; at the dinner, on Saturday, 250l.; making in all, 1,076l.; but to complete the object, 2,000l. more will be required.

## Straits of Messina.

On the various Currents and apparent Whirlpools in the Straits of Messina.

The waters in the Straits of Messina are, as is well known, impelled by a strong current, varying in its direction according to the period of the tide, sometimes setting from north to south, and sometimes from south to north. Many writers, both ancient and modern, have noticed this phenomenon, but no one has as yet described the circumstances attendant upon it, or traced the causes by which they are connected together. The poets invented Scylla and Charybdis, and historians copying from them have affirmed in their Works, the existence of the rocks of Scylla and the whirlpool of Charybdis. Spallanzani, to the best of our recollection, was the first who, by his observations, proved the idea so long entertained of this whirlpool, to be erroneous, but he was unable to discover what produced the violent agitation of the waters visible in many parts of the Straits, or by what force vessels were frequently hurried along by the impetuosity of such agitation, and dashed against the neighbouring rocks. It may not, therefore, be a useless labour to distinguish and link together the principal phenomena of these currents; to explain the cause of the formation of the whirlpools, and the different results of their action under different circumstances.

The channel of Messina is narrowest at the Pharos, where its breadth may be about a league. If we look in an oblique direction through this opening, the view is bounded by the rocks of Scylla, which apparently shut up the mouth of the strait in that direction. But if from the Pharos we approach Messina, as we proceed, the sides of the channel diverge, and after passing Messina, the strait widens perceptibly, till it opens to the main sea. The Messinese have given to the current the Greek name of *Rema*, and when it sets from the north, they call it *Rema discendente*; when from the south, *Rema montante*. But whether the *Rema* flow north or south, several currents may always be observed at no great distance from the shore, running in an opposite direction to the main stream; that is to say, when the *Rema* sets to the northward, these currents run in a southerly direction, and vice versa. This singular fact, which must strike every one who attentively surveys the Straits, deserves to be considered, since, in our opinion, it is the principal cause on which all the other phenomena of this current depend, and from which they proceed.

To explain the reason of these contrary currents, which are called *reflui*, we must take for granted, that the two sides of the channel are, as they appear to be, irregular, and intersected by numerous creeks and bays.

If it be true, as some assert, that both shores were formerly united, it may be easily imagined that this irregularity may have been caused by the violence of the shock which split and separated them. But without taking this into our consideration, it will be obvious, that the cliffs on either side have been partly dissolved, or washed away by the violence of the waters which have been for centuries, and are still sapping their foundations; nor is it possible, that granite, the common basis of the mountains of Calabria and Messina, can have resisted, uninjured, the incessant action of the waters, which in the course of ages will destroy, or at least produce a vast alteration in almost every natural production. We know also, that the rocks of Scylla are hollowed into numerous caverns, among which the water rushing in, circulating and bursting out again, produces that noise which, according to Homer, resembles the barking of many dogs.

Admitting the shores to be thus irregular and cavernous, we may easily conceive, that the waters impelled by the current striking them obliquely, a re-action will be produced, and the momentum of the impulse be divided into two distinct powers, one of which being a direct recoil, will be annihilated; the other, flying off in a direction equal to the angle of that in which it was impelled; therefore the current of water, after striking the shore, will be repelled in a given angle, and be urged on in its new direction by the moiety of power which remains. Now if the current, after this first repulsion, strikes the side of a second or third projection, then from the second or third angular obliquity a current may result directly contrary to the main stream. As many, therefore, as are the points in which the irregularity of either side causes such repulsion of the water, so many *reflui* or contrary currents will be produced. And these are seldom observed far distant from the shores of the channel, because it is by the action of the water on the sides, that they are formed.

Nor can the winds apparently have any influence on the formation of the *reflui*; for whether the air be calm or not, whether the wind be favourable or adverse to the stream, these currents are constantly visible. Indeed we cannot with probability assign a certain and invariable result to an uncertain and variable cause. The action of the wind can produce no other effect than to modify the velocity of these currents. If the wind blow in the direction of the stream, the latter will be impelled with greater impetuosity against the shores, and therefore the *reflui* will certainly possess a greater impulse than would have been the case if it had not been aided by the wind; and if the wind blow in a contrary direction to the *Rema*, the latter will naturally strike the shores with less impetus; but the *reflui* which are formed will not only be impelled by their remaining power, but also by the favourable action of the wind. The formation of the *reflui* therefore being independent of the wind, can only result from the irregular and cavernous shape of the shores.

This explanation, which to some may appear solely theoretical, is, however, confirmed by observation. The *Rema montante*, in the course of the

year, is sometimes more, and sometimes less rapid than the *Rema discendente*. The points from which the *Rema* enters the channel, as the Messinese pilots affirm, vary according to the season of the year; but notwithstanding these variations the direction of the *reflui* is always the same. As a proof of this, the above-mentioned pilots, when they see a ship, through the unskillfulness of the captain, caught into one of these *reflui*, can instantly point out the exact spot whether the vessel will be irretrievably carried. This uniform direction of the *reflui*, amid all the variations of the current, clearly refers their cause to the only constant and unchanging object; the form of the shore. Besides, it is well known, that the rapidity of the *reflui* decreases in proportion as the strait widens, although the *Rema* continues in all its former activity; because these currents must necessarily lose their force in proportion as that force is extended over a larger space, and as their distance from the points whence they were repelled increases.

As the direction of the *reflui* is invariably the same, so it is always in the same parts of the Strait, that the waters appear to form whirlpools; both, thus shewing by their constant position, the chain which connects them, and their mutual relation to each other; for wherever the *reflui* meet the current of the stream, a violent agitation must necessarily be produced, and where many *reflui* meet the current in an oblique direction, a circular motion will take place similar in appearance to that of a whirlpool.

Observation will strengthen this supposition. The whirlpools are found close to the shore, because the currents do not, as before stated, extend to any distance from land. They are formed in the narrowest part of the channel, because in this part the *reflui* are stronger and more numerous. In fact, they are for the most part near the Pharos and the Lanterna, and are scarcely perceptible more to the southward, where the channel widens and the *reflui* lose their force.

After this we can no longer be surprised at the effects produced by these whirlpools in the Straits of Messina. When a ship is inadvertently drawn into one of them, she must of necessity either be whirled round, or remain motionless, till one of the two contrary powers by which it is fixed, becomes greater than the other. When the opposing powers of the *reflui* and of the main stream are equal and operate in exactly contrary directions upon the vessel, there can be no doubt but that the two powers being in equilibrium, the vessel must remain motionless, and as it were fastened in the middle of the whirlpool. In such case, if the sea is rough and the wind which agitates it boisterous, the vessel is in danger of being beaten to pieces by the violence of the waves, and consequently of foundering. But if the powers of the contrary currents are not directly opposed in one and the same line, then their forces, although they were equal, would act upon the vessel with rotatory motion; and, according to the law of mechanics, the momentum of this result would be equal in such case to the sum of the momenta of the component powers, and the motion of rotation will continue as long as the equilibrium and energy of the opposing forces. But if one of these forces should decrease, it follows that the other being more active and remaining victorious, will drive the ship against the shore, where she will, most probably, be dashed to pieces. This is also the reason why the most dangerous whirlpools in the Straits are situated but a few yards distant from either shore.

By the irregularity therefore of the sides of this channel are produced the *reflui*, and by these again the apparent whirlpools, and all the dangers of the navigation of the Straits near the Pharos. The skill of the Messinese pilots consists in nothing further than their knowledge of these currents, and of the best manner of avoiding them or extricating a vessel from them. Fortunately, the direction of them is always the same, and the art of the pilots being founded upon a certain and invariable basis, seldom if ever fails.

These remarks were drawn up during a residence of some days at Messina. Our intention was to have traced a map of the irregularities of the coast, in order to have proved more clearly the truth of our hypothesis; but want of time prevented us from carrying this design into effect. We shall, however, feel gratified to see our ideas corrected or better expressed by some one, who, with more leisure, may hereafter be induced to examine the phenomena of these straits.

*Discovery in Optics.*—Mr. Lester has brought his new discovery in optics to perfection, and from its simplicity, and utility, it promises to be of great importance.—Two cones of light produced from the luminary being placed near to their respective apices, and in opposite directions, base to base, form a parallelogram of indefinite dimensions, that would fill the largest room with an equal light of the same density in every part of its space, and as the fountain of light would be in opposite directions, the bodies, equally divided, would have but two sides as opposed to the lines of vision; no shadows can be produced by the application. Rooms of all descriptions may be lighted by the flame being placed on the outside of the wall, and its reflections thrown through an aperture, by which means the smoke arising from the combustion will pass off into the atmosphere without entering into the room. By this means the light will have the most beautiful effect by illuminating space void of smoke, which is far from being the case with rooms lighted in the common way. It has been clearly ascertained, that one of Mr. Lester's Mirrors, 13½ inches diameter, placed before one of the lamps commonly used to light stages, and fixed to the foot-board of the driver, will render the smallest print legible at the distance of 100 yards before the leaders' heads.

## Patronage of Science.

To the Editor of the *Calcutta Journal*.

Sir,

The promotion and encouragement of the Manufacturing and Mechanical Arts, has ever been a subject of deep interest with all nations which have made any advances in the great cause of civilization, and it is to the perfection of these, that Science and Literature are indebted for their permanency and diffusion. From them are derived all the comforts and elegancies which adorn polished life, and it is from a judicious patronage of these, that Great Britain, has become the Mistress, and extorted the admiration of the World. While dwelling upon the glory of our country, we cannot refrain from expressing our admiration of its Government, which at every era, since England emerged from a barbaric state, has evinced a peculiar regard for every subject connected with the improvement of its Manufacturing and Mechanical Establishments; and it is to such fostering consideration of both, that they are now unrivalled throughout the globe.

In premising thus much, I shall take the liberty to congratulate the scientific portion of our great Eastern empire, upon the cheering prospect held out for their encouragement, on Thursday last, by our Illustrious Ruler and his Noble Consort, who minutely and patiently inspected and approved the various works carried on at Messrs. Kyd's premises, by the agency of that most perfect and most valuable piece of mechanism ever invented, the Steam Engine, which unquestionably owes its origin to British genius.

I shall have the less hesitation in following you in the account you gave to the Public, of the Launch of the Two Government Pilot Vessels on Thursday last, and giving what you have omitted, as I can, with truth, confirm your concluding paragraph, that a greater variety of human skill was crowded into one hour's visit, than is often exhibited in this country, and seldom exceeded, indeed, in any other. I shall briefly notice the launching of the vessels, as in a maritime nation it is a sight of so common occurrence, that it must be familiar to most of our countrymen; yet as a Ship, with all the Sciences connected with it, comprehending Navigation and Commerce, is acknowledged to be the highest pitch of human ingenuity, we must ever feel an enthusiastic delight on witnessing her launch into her proper element: considering too, its effect on the Natives of this country, who ascribe to Europeans in this operation a supernatural power, we are still more urged not to less pass with silence any case of this kind, however common the frequent sight of it has made it. In the present instance, the Builders added a new interest to the scene, by having rigged the Vessels complete on the stocks, and they were accordingly launched with every mast and yard up, and highly decorated with flags.

In following the Noble Marquis and Marchioness to the exhibition of the Machinery, I shall dilate a little on the account given by you, convinced that in so doing, I shall gratify the lovers of Mechanics; and I have the satisfaction to think, that this is, at any rate, in this country, a new subject.

The first object presented to the notice of the Noble Visitors, was a Steam Engine, made by Mawdsley, of London, a Mechanist celebrated by his having made the Portsmouth Block Machinery, the Saw Mill at Woolwich, and various superior and ingenious Works. Nothing can exceed the beauty, regularity, and smoothness of the working of this Engine, and it affords a good specimen to those at this distance from the seat of every mechanical improvement, of the great perfection of the art of machine-making in London.

A cross-cut saw and several circular saws were successively shewn, as well as the modes adopted to abridge labour in the making of ship's blocks, by drilling, &c. and the extent to which the power of this little Engine has been carried in turning lathes on every side and in every corner of a large room is surprising. To those who have not seen the rapid effects of Machine Saws and Drills, no description can convey an adequate idea of them, and therefore I shall not attempt any detailed account, but recommend to the enquiring, the easy gratification of their curiosity, by going to see it.

The model of a Hydrostatic Press afforded great satisfaction, and gave on a small scale, a very good idea of the very great power of this Engine for performing with superior advantage all that is usually done with the screw, and which it is probable that it will eventually entirely supersede, as it becomes known.

A Rose-Twinning Engine, for eniting the various beautiful devices on Ladies' Watch-cases, was exhibited, with a specimen on ivory of its performance. It is a tribute due to the ingenuity and talents of a meritorious individual to state, that this Engine was made in this country, by an Officer of the Bengal Infantry, from an Encyclopedia. This Gentleman had the honor to be presented to the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings, who, as the true Patron of the Arts, complimented him on this and the many other ingenious productions, for which he is distinguished.

On leaving the Machine Room, the Party were shewn the furnace of the Engine which set the whole in motion, and to which alone it was requisite to attend; the strength of steam was also shewn by opening a cork from the Boiler.

The Noble Visitors were now shewn into the metal-turning Room, where various implements for turning, boring, drilling, and polishing metals, on the latest and most approved plans, together with Fire Engines and various manufactured articles, were exhibited. Several specimens of iron castings, an entire new art in this country, were shewn, and lastly a beautiful little model of a Steam Engine, which was indefatigably doing the work of two men at a lathe, whilst a workman was fashioning a wheel of brass, which afforded the Marchioness and the Ladies of the Party great pleasure,

The Illustrious Party departed highly gratified with the magic-like effect of this exhibition of modern machinery, which is highly creditable to the Messrs. Kyds, by whose introduction of it into this country, it is to be hoped this Emporium of the East will be benefitted, and the taste for modern improvements eventually be seen to flourish in British India, as well as in the Mother-Country.

Calcutta, Oct. 8, 1819.

A. B.

## Excursions in Africa.

(From the Black River to Plattenberg's Bay)

May 26th.—I could now understand the subject of any conversation in Dutch, and could make myself understood in it, and was prepared to proceed on my journey, Mr. V. having obligingly hired two horses for me for that purpose.

At 10, I took leave of my friend and his nephew, Mr. du T. a very clever young man, who spoke and wrote English, French, and Dutch very well, altho' he had never been out of the colony, I was accompanied by my French friend, the Police Officer, to take back the hired horses, and by a very young farmer, the son of the person at whose house I was to rest that day.

We had not proceeded far, when my horse reared and kicked, and would not go on. The Frenchman coolly said "he is not used to be ridden, but is the best wagon horse at the Drosdy." The young farmer instantly offered to exchange horses, and by the help of his shambok made the animal proceed. The shambok is the length and thickness of our jockey whip, and is cut from the hides of the rhinoceros and the sea cow, as they are here called, but better known by the name of the hippopotamus. The hides are in some parts an inch thick.

In about half an hour we entered a slip of forest, and crossed the Zwart or Black river. We then went over several hills, and cantering over a level of some distance, suddenly came to a descent towards the sea, called the Kuyman's Khut, or crocodile's hole, a tremendous chasm. The descents and ascents are on the west and east excessively steep rocks, with loose pebbles at every step, to the north is a gloomy wood, trees coming to the very beach and overtopping each other. The view is terminated by lofty mountains, on the south is the sea, and at the back are the waters of the Zwart river rushing from the mountains on the west, and the Kuyman's river coming from the forest on the north mingle their waters, and run together into the sea, but being driven back at flood tide it is dangerous and often impossible to cross here; we arrived fortunately at the ebbs.

On gaining the eastern summit, two roads appeared; to the left was the usual wagon road; but the right leading down to the sea, being an hour shorter, I preferred going by it. This pass by the Kuyman's Khut, being the only road for waggons, the difficulties they have to encounter may be supposed. They generally divide the waggons, and with the fore and hinder part take over the load in small quantities. A waggan loaded with timber is a whole day getting every thing crossed.

We descended through a wood to the sea shore, and cantering along the sand, passed the mouth of the Trakkedikow river, (literally drive back the cow) and soon afterwards turned inland. A ridiculous scene here occurred. The hired horse which the young farmer had exchanged with me insisted on going into the sea, and at last I was obliged to ride between him and the sea, flogging the animal at every step, whilst he kept pressing against my horse to get into the waves.

We now crossed some sand hills, and ascending the range of hills, saw below an extensive lake called the Long Fly (Long Lake.) We descended towards it, and rode along the edge of the water. On the opposite side were mountains covered with forests, in which many wild elephants were said to be, and the Boors declare, that some of them are eighteen feet high. This however is incredible, as the highest ever seen in India, are I believe below 12 feet. It is a great pity, that it has never been attempted to tame the African Elephant; it would be a most serviceable animal to the colony.

The long valley is supplied with water from the Trakkedikow river, and the sea abounds with fish; we put up here also several snipes and pheasants. On passing a cottage belonging to Mr. Vivier, who from a neighbouring farm sends his cattle here to graze, we rounded the lake and went to the opposite side, leaving two other lakes on our right hand, and arrived at the house of J. C. de la H. at the Drie Valley, (Three Lakes.) He welcomed me in French, as did his wife, and I soon perceived they were not the common Boors of Africa. His silver locks and benevolent intelligent countenance gave an appearance of truth to the story of his being a Swiss of the old school, he was an Officer of De Meuron's Regiment, and came with it many years ago to the Cape, when he fell in love with his present wife a Lady born in Holland. The Regiment went on to Ceylon; and he accompanied it, but soon after sold his commission, returned to the Cape, married, bought a farm, and has been here ever since. The distance of the house from George's Drosdy is I suppose about 20 miles.

27th. Though the weather had been stormy all night, yet the morning was fine, and the prospect from the house beautiful. Situated on the slope of a mountain, three lakes are seen in front, a range of hill dividing them from the sea, and then in the back ground mountains covered with trees. The large valley as before mentioned, is immediately before the house. Further west is the Rond Fly (Round Lake) so called from its being circular, it has a communication with the Long Valley, and still beyond it, is the Zward Valley (black) which besides communicating with the sea is supplied with water from the rivers Deep Woli, Rukl de Valley and Zwart. If La H. would but condescend to fish, he might gain a large profit by salting and drying them; but it is against the pride of a Swiss Officer to be-

come a fisherman. La H. has a kind of companion in an old Hanoverian, Francis Y. whom he allows to live on his Estate, and who though 78 years of age without spectacles and without any assistance mends the waggons of the neighbouring farmers.

On leaving this old couple, I considered it right to pay for the horses' feed, as I did at every farmer's house, and taking out five dollars, presented it to my host. A look of wounded pride was instantly evident: tears came in his eyes, and he said, "I am a Swiss officer, and though poor, keep not an inn." I was hurt at having wounded his feelings, and tried to explain that it was for the corn the horses had eaten, I wanted to pay. At any rate said I, putting the money into the hands of one of the little children, you can have no objection to my giving these little creatures the means of buying some cakes. He smiled, and we shook hands; when the fresh horses being arrived, I pursued my journey.

We now passed the Ronde valley, and crossing to the opposite side again, went along by the edge of the Zwart valley, when we turned suddenly through an opening in the hills to the sea shore, and riding along the sands for about half a mile, again turned inland at the mouth of the Zwart valley into which the sea rushes at high water, so that on the springs it is dangerous to pass. A steep sand bank was to be ascended here, after we gained the summit of a high hill. When below, we saw a beautiful valley, covered with heath flowers, and the Rukt de Valley river meandering through it.

We kept along the valley for some distance, until we came to a very high hill, where we were obliged to dismount and walk up. We descended from hence to a gloomy woody glen, through which the Goecumma river runs, a clear deep stream. On passing it, a strong ascent was to be gained, and soon after we emerged from the forest, when successive ranges of hills, one after another, presented themselves.

We passed over all these, when the broad river Kuisna came in view. On arriving on its banks, we found its waters too deep to be forded, so we went up to a farm belonging to Ignatius Terblans, who, with his wife, received us hospitably, and promised to row me over the river in the morning. We had been five and a half hours on the road, but being obliged to walk a part of the way, I do not think the distance from H would be above 20 miles.

29th.—I arose this morning before day-light, as I wished to reach Mr. R.'s, by breakfast time. The horses had been left out to graze all night, and Gasper reported they were not in sight. He immediately set off in pursuit, and did not return till half past eight o'clock. As it was a cold morning, I joined the Hottentots at the kitchen fire. One of the women was standing stirring up the embers, whilst a child, also standing, was suckling her. Another was cutting some meat into small pieces, a third eating a kind of porridge out of a gourd, all of them nearly naked. I was disgusted, but too cold to move.

The Hottentots, especially those who are not near the Missionary Establishments, are far removed from civilization;—smoke, dirt, grease, tobacco, and snuff, are their greatest delights. They eat to excess, and can also stay days without eating, but as long as they have some thing to eat they will not labour. They are small in stature, especially the women, and in countenance resemble the Chinese, having flat noses, and small sunken blue eyes; but there is a great deal more good nature depicted in their countenances than in those of the Chinese, whose long black hair they have not, but are woolly like the negroes, and hardly any of the men have beards.

We crossed the Kuisna in a small boat. The horses were driven over by shouting and throwing stones at them. We then ascended a hill, and soon after another, when we continued along the side of the Kuisna, small branches from which, knee and fetlock deep, we crossed, until we arrived at the house of Mr. —, at Milkwood Krawl, one hour and half from Leeblance or about eight miles.

Milkwood Krawl, is in Barrow's Travels in Africa, called the most beautiful estate in the colony. It is situated on the slope of a range of hills, which form an amphitheatre around, and these are covered with forests, the Kuisna in front, an immense collection of waters which sporting about several small islands are lost to the north amongst the slope of the hills and the forests that come down to the very edge, and on the South, the waters rush into the sea thro' a narrow fissure in the cliffs. As they are high on either side, the sea from the house can only be seen thro' this portal, and when the waves are high, the sight is very grand. Rocks and bars of sand choke up the entrance, but if ships could pass in, they would find plenty of water, and the safest anchorage. Fish are numerous, and at one haul of the seine we filled a Madeira pipe full of steinbras, elf, and adders.

Mr. —, the owner of this noble spot, is an Englishman, hospitable, well informed, and gentlemanlike. He is esteemed by all who know him, and adored by the neighbouring farmers, for his kindness to them. He trades extensively in timber, which the farmers cutting in the forest, he purchases from them, and conveys in a ship of about 300 tons to Cape Town.

No Timber has yet been discovered which would answer for ship building; the principal kinds are these.

*Yellow Wood*—used for house building and common carpenter's work.

*Stink Wood*—or African Oak, used for furniture of all kinds.

*Hassagui Wood*—used for wagon wheels, spokes, axle trees, &c.

*White Pear*—used for waggon body parts, &c. &c.

Wood indeed is the only article of trade all about here; for sheep and black cattle will not thrive. Vines will not grow, and corn would not pay its expences of carriage up to Cape Town. The labour, time, and expence of cutting wood are great; the farmers are poorer than any other part of the colony. Birds of the greatest variety, of most beautiful plumage, are found on the adjacent forests; but with the exception of pheasants, there is little or no game. Ostriches, Zebras, Hippopotamus, &c. once so common, are now seldom found on this side of the great river.

June 1.—I fixed on this day to visit Plattenberg's Bay, and at 11 A.M. left Mr. R. on horse-back. Our course was east, and the road up hill. We passed through Myneer Nepos's at Elias river, and Lambert Samson's Swansberg, and soon afterwards descended a deep glen; the path through it was muddy and over trunks of trees, whether placed there by the boors or accidentally fallen I know not. The Samson's drift river terminates this pass, which is called the Port. On emerging from it, which I did in an hour and a half from Mr. R.'s, the road becomes level, and after a few miles you turn south towards the sea, and in an hour and a half come in sight of the Robbeberg, (seal island,) which forms the western, as Peak Formosa, Grenadier's cap does the eastern point of Plattenberg's Bay, and in half an hour further you arrive at the edge of the cliffs. See the houses on the sea shore and the Keerboom's river just in front. We now wound round a hill to the house of the Postmaster M. where I dismounted and walked on to the Bay. We turned west, passed over a stream by a wooden bridge, then ascending a hill descended in about quarter of an hour to what is called Plattenberg's Bay, a few old houses crammed between this hill and one on the other side. Hills are also at the back, and the sea in front is hid from you by a sand bank covered with shrubs, and I am told these houses cannot be seen from the sea. This spot was purposely selected by the Dutch Government as a place of security. The store houses with the exception of one, are in ruins. An old Dutch Serjeant, Laurens, has lived here many years, himself and his dog are the only living creatures. On the top of the hill, is a large stone work, with the following inscription:—

Dees Esteins is opzereet, Door Mr. Joachim Baron Van Plattenberg, Raad Vannedar Landschendien, en Gouverneur Cabo de Goed Hoop, Enden-resso et an Dien, a—1778.

Descending to the sea shore, you come to Peesong (Plantain) river, here running into the sea; in front of it, is a large rock. The view to the west is closed by the Robbeberg, from which millstones are cut by the boors, and seals are occasionally caught; and looking east you see the mouths of the Keerboom's, Ilakis, Drift, Braacke, Sout, and Grote Rivers, following each other in a line along the shore. In the distance at the mountain's termination, with Peak Formosa projecting far into the sea and on this side of it is the Sitsicommee forest, but the distance is too great for the trees to be visible. It being no longer practicable to proceed along the sea shore, you turn inland to go to Algoa Bay. We now returned to the Post-house. The Post-master died a short time ago, he was a Polish Prussian and had been here 24 years, he has left a widow, two sons and three daughters all grown up. The sons are complete boors and not fit to succeed their father; the Government have consequently given the appointment, and added that of Superintendent of Forests to it, to an Englishman. However, the old lady is pensioned and is said to be rich. They told me with tears they should soon be turned out of the house, where so many happy days had been spent, where the children had been born and spent all their lives, and near to which, added the eldest daughter, is our father's tomb. She daily, I am told, puts flowers on it.

2d.—Early in the morning I left the Post-office, intending to return to Mr. Rex's by another route. We passed Van Roue, where the evening before I had walked with the family and that of Terblan's, who were on a visit, and turning north, we arrived in half an hour at the Field Cornet's, Henry Van Houstein, a fine young man, who lately married a much older woman with two children, her great riches attracting him. Their house is in the Vit Drift, which soon joins the Kleine, Keerboom's River, afterwards taking the name of Beto it falls into Keerboom River near the sea. In half an hour after leaving Van Houstein's, I arrived at the farm of Henry Vander Watt (stuff pot) Kleine Keerboom's River, a very pretty spot indeed, situated in a valley with picturesque hills and woods around. A very large garden is attached to the house full of fruit trees, the oranges uncommonly large. I here saw the wild grape, the fruit resembles the morella cherry, the taste that of the sloe, and the leaf is the same as the common vine.

Old Vander Watt and his wife, the one 60, the other 51, were kind and anxious to produce their best: they told me that about 12 years ago they had been plundered by the Kaffers, some neighbours of theirs were stopped by the Kaffers, whilst travelling in their waggons, and cruelly murdered; The mother of the one and the wife of the other were kept prisoners for eight days. They wrote to the husband of the first, that if he would send 200 dollars, the old lady should be sent back. The unfeeling old husband replied, that as they had kept her so long they might keep her altogether; but the Kaffers showed more civilization by sending back the female, with remarks on the brutality of her relatives. Old Wat told me that he saw one of the Kaffers dressed in her clothes, when he immediately shot him. He cuts wood for Mr. R. and amuses himself in collecting sticks of different kinds, fifteen of which, specimens of the several sorts of trees, and two shamboks, one rhinoceros, the other of sea cow. I induced him to give me, on promising to send him an English hunting whip, with his name on it, from the Cape.

I here met an Englishman, by name Tunbridge, who with his wife were living on Wat's grounds; he collects birds and insects, which he prepares and sends to the Cape for sale. The neighbouring woods afford numerous specimens. I selected a few of the most beautiful and rare ones. Tunbridge told me, that he had traversed the woods in every direction for many miles, but with the exception of one wolf and a few hogs, he never saw any wild animals. I left the Vander Watt about 2 P.M. and now for the first time turned back towards the Cape. We ascended a steep mountain immediately behind the house, and then making an angle down to the "Port," arrived at Mr. Rex's in about three hours, distance about fifteen miles, and to Plattenberg's Bay from Mr. R.'s at Milk Wood Krawl, about eighteen miles.

## Madame Blanchard.

To the Editor of *La Quotidienne*.

SIR,

The unfortunate event which has just caused the death of the widow Blanchard, one of the most intrepid Aeronauts and one who had performed 76 aërostatic ascensions, is most deplorable. Our sorrow on the occasion is aggravated by the idea, that this dreadful accident is the consequence, unfortunately unavoidable, of the causes of perils with which this too intrepid Aeronaut surrounded herself.

It is but too well demonstrated by the effects and end of this fatal experiment, that the expansion of the gas out of its envelope, within which it was too much compressed, is the only cause of this shocking catastrophe.

The balloon, rather too small, was yesterday extremely filled with gas, more than usual, from physical motives relating to the state of the atmosphere, and with an increase of ballast for adding to the effects of the artifices commonly employed.

The gas re-acting on itself, in proportion to the rise of the balloon, by its dilatation in a medium of decreasing density, was struggling to get out, and found an issue in the lower orifice of the balloon only, which the Aeronaut must have left open for her safety.

These two contrary effects, of the ascension of the balloon and the escape of the gas, established such a communication as a train of gunpowder would have done between the kindling materials of the fire-works and the interior of the balloon; it was at that moment, the first expansion of the gas, that Mad. Blanchard was seen, with a squib in her hand, setting fire to the last of her fire-works, which communicated itself to the balloon, and thence her destruction instantly followed.

If Mad. Blanchard had provided her apparatus with a parachute, which in spreading itself, would have separated and supported her out of the incandescent focus; there is no doubt but there would be now one victim less of these useless experiments.

Accept, Mr. Editor, the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

Paris, July 7, 1819. ELIZA GARNERIN, the *Aéroporeuse*.

I beg leave to add, to the just reflections of my daughter, concerning the present misfortune, the result of the information which I have myself collected from an examination of the balloon, of the skiff, and of the place itself where the unfortunate Mad. Blanchard fell.

The gas of the balloon was very pure, since it burned and was consumed without the least explosion. The combustion nevertheless was so lively and rapid, that the envelope, which was little fit to favour it, was all consumed in the lower part; there remained but the joining seams on the sides of the balloon, untouched and resembling cordages forming another net.

The top of the balloon, which was not burned, supported the unfortunate Aeronaut, as might have been done by a parachute, rather too small.

Unfortunately the net, that was over the balloon, was not as incombustible as the cover; it was burnt and the unfortunate Aeronaut fell upon the head on the top of a house No. 18, Street De Provence, on the same side as, and very near street Ohoquet. The fall was so severe, that the roof gave way and three rafters were broken through. This caused such a counter blow as threw off the unfortunate woman from the roof upon the pavement. Part of the crown of her hat remained amidst the splinters of the wood. Some of the sand, from the ballast which was still in the skiff, was seen on the top of the house, where the slates are also marked with the remains of the fire works which ended there their burning.

The skiff, and wrecks of the balloon, and the unfortunate Aeronaut in the pangs of death, were all taken back to Tivoli.

Neither her clothes nor her person, though evidently affected by the conflagrations which alone caused her death, bear the least indication of combustion.

## Fashionable Phrasology.

The lovers of science have long been unanimous in wishing, that the nomenclature of each branch of physical knowledge, which at present is subject to every change of system and caprice of theory, should be accurately defined and determined. Whilst the chemist and the geologist are bewildered in the maze of confused terms and contradictory definitions, the linguist is no less perplexed by the fluctuations to which language is perpetually liable. He who would make every such shift of literature, and each returning tide of prevalent idioms, who would ascertain when such and such expressions first appeared in the hemisphere of polite education, how long they flourished, and at what period they were pronounced obsolete, would not find it the work of a day; for there will always be some tenacious and obstinate grammarian, perversely loth to part with one phrase in his vocabulary, and resolute to procure a short respite for some devoted term. But he who is ambitious of keeping a regular account of every new track and channel into which the stream of fashionable conversation may chance to meander, will find it still more difficult, although he may be urged to proceed in the undertaking in the fond hope, that he may rank in the *beau monde*, as Johnson does among lexicographers, and Rees among the lovers of art and science. This indefinite phraseology is as absolutely unintelligible to the classical as to the vulgar. It varies with almost every season, and the definition and acceptance of many words in the vocabulary of fashion for 1810, are as different in 1819 as the dialects of Spencer and Southey among the poets. In their own element these phrases are mere birds of

passage; it may be interesting to arrest a few of them in their flight, and without attempting to submit them to any regular classification, to compare them with their predecessors, and examine what meaning they convey at this period. Some of the most prominent peculiarities of this eccentric jargon, which, at the present era, nearly approximates with what is elsewhere denominated *slang*, are as following.

**Dandy.**—The modern *Dandy* has usurped the place of the *Beau*, the *Beau* of former years. Its external character, a pair of stays, high heeled boots, short waist, starched cravat, narrow brimmed hat, *sans* sense, *sans* brains, *sans* wit, *sans* every thing that a man should possess. Its specific character, vast self-importance, selfishness the ruling principle, affecting to despise all men and all things not within the pale of the Dandy community, exactly as they are unaffectedly despised by all wise and respectable persons.

**Style.**—That which has been successively termed the *Ton*, the *Go*, &c. is now denominated *Style*. It is the unerring compass by which all concerns in the system of fashion are to be steered, and that improvement of ignorant nature which prescribes new courses to the seasons and elements, which would turn summer into winter, and night into day. To become a member of this fraternity it is only necessary to renounce three things, namely, your knowledge, your sense, and your character, which trifling sacrifices are not, to persons of style, worth one shadow of regret; though, like the secret of freemasonry, none but the initiated can conceive the sublimity of those gratifications, which that style affords, in lieu of these minor considerations. By some ignorant pretenders, it is true, that this acceptance of the word *style* has been defined, an irresistible hurricane of dissipation, sweeping away thousands of men and women, with their families and fortunes, into a whirlpool of mischief and ruin; and have referred the curious in such investigations to the *Insolvent Act*, now happily on the eve of being abolished, the Old Bailey, the Fleet Prison, the King's Bench, Holyrood House, and the Isle of Man; to the annals of Newgate, to St. Luke's Hospital, and to various cases of suicides, for proofs of its effects.

**Bore.**—It would be troublesome to ascertain the precise period that gave birth to this comprehensive epithet; it has, however, outlived the little existence of most of its brethren, and may still be taken in nearly the same acceptation that was common to it twenty years ago. A *bore*, like an estate in law, may be either real or personal; the first refers to good advice, long sermons, and rational conversation; the latter to the whole race of parents and kinsfolk, to all who suppose they have a natural right of authority, or a natural claim to civility; and, above all, to wives and creditors!

**Nobody.**—One who lives like a Christian and behaves like a gentleman.

**At Home.**—What was formerly called a *reut*, *assembly*, &c. where none of the comforts of home are enjoyed; but where a multitude of well-dressed people, who do not care a rush for each other, are stuffed into one or more rooms, without the possibility of seeing, hearing, or conversing at ease, at the house of a *friend*, who would not care half a rush if they were all at the bottom of the sea.

**Man of Honour.** Any person whose nerves are sufficiently firm to stand fire.

**Affair of Honour.** Cannot be defined; consequence generally deliberate murder.

**Cards.**—Something to do for those who have nothing to say; it were well if the definition ended here. Truth and experience must add; a means of breaking the Sabbath, ruining fortune, exterminating principle, and entrapping the unwary to their ruin.

**To swell.**—To drink champagne when you have not money to pay for small beer, to run after foxes one day, and away from bailiffs the next. To talk of your stud at Newmarket, when your watch is in the hands of the pawnbroker!

**Chaperon.** This term is derived from the French, and signifies a *hood*, a shelter for the tender plants of celibacy from the storms of dissipation, the insidious blasts of squeamish sentiment and the *mal aria* of flattery. In former times it was a sort of female scare-crow which guarded the blossoms of beauty; the idea supposed to be borrowed from the story of the dragon which *chaperoned* the golden apples in the Hesperian garden; but by a late editor in the empire of fashion—which has confined this office to those who have entered the holy state of wedlock, it has lost this exclusive character; since the young and blooming bride, the gay and buxom widow are, now, frequently seen to chaperon the single gentlewoman of fifty-four, the unprotected miss of sixty-three! Akin to this contradiction and misapplication of terms, is another abuse of language, which cannot be too severely reprobated; it is that of ascribing the faults of particular members of a profession to the profession itself, by means of instituting a set of cast phrases, to denote insufficiency or demerit in the several learned bodies; and having succeeded in affixing such ideas to the words, they are indiscriminately applied to the professions themselves. Law and medicine have long been subject to this contemptible and mischievous practice, nor has the sacred function of the minister of the gospel escaped; and the appellation of *Person* is associated with *Quack* and *Pettifogger*, for the purpose of throwing ridicule and contempt upon their respective callings. There is another class of men exposed to this paltry malice, and all who employ their time and talents in endeavours to improve the understanding, correct the will, and expose the prevailing vices and follies of the age, are stigmatized as *Scribblers*. That many have engaged in such undertakings who are unequal to the task, that others have perverted splendid talents to mischievous purposes, is too true; but as well might it be urged, that because there are vile copies there are no originals, that because fools and knaves are to be found in the great mass of civilized society, we may search, with Diogenes, for an honest man, in vain!

National Monument.

We have been solicited to give insertion to the following Resolutions, as relating to an object which are likely to be very generally interesting to a large portion of the British Community in India, who may participate in the feelings by which the leaders of the Plan have been actuated, and be disposed also to aid the undertaking in another sense, with something more than mere approbation. It has been handed to us in the form of a printed Letter, but not having seen it in any of the Papers, we are not aware whether it has before made public. To ourselves it is sufficiently new to induce us to suppose that it may be so to most of our readers also.

In the 210th Number of our Journal for Tuesday October 12, we inserted the Report of a Meeting at the Free Mason's Tavern on the 20th of May, at which the Duke of Atholl presided, and at which several eloquent speeches were made and patriotic toasts given; but this Meeting at the British Coffee House, though presided over by the same illustrious personage, was not thus mentioned. As containing the details of the object proposed, it is of course the most essential to the understanding of it, and we accordingly comply with the wish of our Friends, in giving it at length.

**Resolutions of a Meeting of Noblemen and Gentlemen, connect'd with Scotland, held in the British Coffee House, on Thursday, the 29th of April, 1819, with the view to the erection of a National Monument in the Metropolis of Scotland, in commemoration of the glorious Naval and Military Achievements of the late War.**

His Grace the DUKE of ATHOLL in the Chair.

His Grace having stated generally the object of the Meeting, the following Resolutions were proposed, and unanimously adopted:—

*Moved by The Right Honourable the Earl of Breadalbane, and Seconded by Lord Saltoun.*

I. Resolved, That the unparalleled victories with which the Great Disposer of Events was pleased to bless the British arms by sea and land in the late glorious and eventful war, in which the valour of Scotchmen was so conspicuously displayed in every quarter of the globe, justly deserve to be commemorated in the Metropolis of Scotland by some appropriate memorial of national gratitude.

*Moved by The Right Honourable the Earl of Roseberry, and Seconded by Kirkman Finlay, Esq. M. P.*

II. Resolved, That a Monumental Edifice, comprehending a Church destined to the purpose of Divine worship, and ornamented in such a manner as may perpetuate the memory of the great Naval and Military Achievements of the late War, will afford a lasting proof, not only of national gratitude to the Almighty for his protection, but of the affectionate remembrance of Scotland, of those gallant officers and men who fought and bled in the service of their country.

*Moved by The Right Honourable the Earl of Northesk, and Seconded by General Ross.*

III. Resolved, That the glorious and important services of our Army in Asia, in the war recently and successfully terminated, in which British valour was so eminently manifested, shall be commemorated in the proposed National Monument.

*Moved by The Right Honourable the Earl of Roseberry, and Seconded by Lord Saltoun.*

IV. Resolved, That, for the purpose of accomplishing this desirable object, a General Subscription shall immediately be opened, and the most effectual measures adopted to raise a fund for completing an Edifice worthy of Scotland.

*Moved by The Right Honourable the Earl of Roseberry, and Seconded by Lord Saltoun.*

V. Resolved, That Subscriptions of any amount, not being less than £1. 1s., be received.

*Moved by The Right Honourable the Earl of Roseberry, and Seconded by The Right Honourable William Dundas, M. P.*

VI. Resolved, That due provision shall be made, that no Subscriber shall be responsible, or called upon for more than his individual subscription, on any account whatever.

*Moved by Sir John Sinclair, and Seconded by John Maxwell, Esq. M. P.*

VII. Resolved, That the following Noblemen and Gentlemen be appointed a Committee in London, to carry the objects of these Resolutions into effect, to correspond with the Committee in Scotland, to assemble General Meetings, and with powers to appoint Sub-Committees, when necessary.

VIII. Resolved, That Archibald Campbell, Esq., be appointed Secretary to the London Committee; and that Subscriptions be received at the following Houses:—

Barclay, Tritton, Bevan, and Co., Lombard-street.  
Coutts and Co., Strand.  
Drummond and Co., Charing-cross.  
Herries, Farquhar, and Co., St. James's-street.  
Hodson and Sterling, Strand.  
Perring, Shaw, Barber, and Co., Cornhill.  
Also at the Office of Archibald Campbell, Esq., the Secretary, Suffolk-street, Charing-cross.

(Signed)

ATHOLL.

The Duke of Atholl having left the Chair, and the Earl of Roseberry having taken it, the Earl of Breadalbane moved,

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to His Grace the Duke of Atholl, for his able conduct in the Chair, and for his unremitting attention to whatever concerns the honour and prosperity of Scotland.

Which was seconded by George Sinclair, Esq., M. P., and unanimously agreed to.

Names of the Committee in London.

His Grace the Duke of Argyll	Bart. M. P.
His Grace the Duke of Atholl	Colonel Elliot Lockhart, M. P.
His Grace the Duke of Montrose	Sir Charles Edmonstone
His Grace the Duke of Roxburgh	The Hon'ble Archibald M'Donald
The Most Noble the Marquis of Stafford	Admiral Sir William Johnstone Hope K.C.B. M. P.
The Most Noble the Marquis of Lothian	James Drummond, Esq., M. P.
The Most Noble the Marquis of Tweeddale	Archibald Campbell, Esq., of Blythe-wood, M. P.
The Most Noble the Marq. of Huntly	Charles Forbes, Esq. M. P.
The Earl of Morton	Sir George Warrender
The Earl of Lauderdale	Sir James Shaw, Bart.
The Earl of Breadalbane	The Hon. William Elphinstone
The Earl of Aberdeen	John Maxwell, Esq., M. P.
The Earl of Roseberry	C. Marjoribanks, Esq., Chairman of the East India Company
The Earl of Rosslyn	John Inglis, Esq., Director of Do.
The Earl of Northesk	Coutts Trotter, Esq., Banker
The Earl of Fife	Mr. Ebenezer Mailaud, Bank Director
Lord Keith	Mr. Spottiswoode, Solicitor
Lord Erskine	Archibald Campbell, Esq., of Cado-gangplace
Lord Viscount Melville	Dr. John Herdman
Viscount Arbuthnot	Alex. Craig Grant, Esq., M. P. Pall-Mall
Viscount Duncan	Edward Ellis, Esq., M. P.
Lord Bethaven	Sir Walter Sterling
Lord Montague	Watson Taylor, Esq., M. P.
Lord Lyndoch	Lord Saltoun
Lord Archibald Hamilton	Lord Colville
Lord Haining	Sir Thomas Bell
The Right Hon. Wm. Dundas, M. P.	George Sinclair, Esq., M. P.
The Right Hon. Sir John Sinclair	
Sir George Clerk, Bart.	
Sir John Marjoribanks, of Lees,	

Messrs. MACKINTOSH AND CO. are authorized by the Secretary, A. CAMPBELL, Esq. to receive Subscriptions at CALCUTTA, for the object above specified.

Monument to Thomson.

The Friends of departed genius may be interested by the information that the Foundation Stone of a Monument to the Memory of Thomson was to be laid, early in the spring of 1819, near his native place, the Village of Ednam in Roxburghshire, by Walter Scott, Esq.

Fifteen years have elapsed since it was first proposed; many of its earliest and warmest Patrons are no more; and still Scotland bore the reproach of having erected no monument to the genius of one of her most gifted sons. The total amount of the Subscription is less than £300, a sum certainly inadequate to do justice to its object; but the surviving Subscribers have resolved to commence, without further delay, the task of raising to the Memory of the Poet of the Seasons, a Monument worthy of his Fame.

The following is a list of the principal Subscribers, chiefly consisting of the Gentlemen of the immediate neighbourhood:—

The late Sir James Pringle, Bart. of Stichell,	£ 10 10 0
The late Sir Alexander Don, Bart. of Newton Don,	10 10 0
Sir William Forbes, Bart.	10 10 0
Sir George Donglass, Bart. Springwood Park,	10 10 0
Sir John Buchanan Riddell, of Riddell, Bart.	10 10 0
Sir H. H. M'Dougal, Bart. of Makerstain,	10 10 0
George Baillie, Esq. of Mellerstain,	10 10 0
George Walde, Esq. of Hendersyde,	10 10 0
John Walde, Esq. Jun.	5 5 0
Walter Scott, Esq.	5 5 0
Robert Walker, Esq. of Wooten,	5 5 0
Transmitted by John Robertson, Esq. of Ednam-House,	40 0 0
John Murray, Esq. of Albemarle Street,	10 10 0